

Message Text

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05637

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, ZA, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: ZAMBIAN COMMENTS ON OAU INITIATIVE

1. ZAMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER, MARK CHONA, ASKED TO SEE AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI WHILE TRANSITING LONDON. HE HAD JUST HELD MEETING APRIL 14 WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE REGARDING NAMIBIAN RESOLUTION PASSED BY OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS AT DAR. CHONA WAS MOST CONCERNED LEST SAG PRIME MINISTER VORSTER IN PUBLIC SPEECH SCHEDULED THIS WEEK OVERREACT TO STRONG LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION AND NOT SEE OPENING FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT ON NAMIBIA.

2. CHONA SAID HE TOLD FOURIE HE HOPED VORSTER WOULD ACCEPT THREE ESSENTIALS OF OAU RESOLUTION: A) SELF DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA; B) TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF NAMIBIA; AND C) WIDER CONTACT WITH AFRICANS. CHONA SUGGESTED THAT VORSTER EXTEND INVITATION TO THE

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SEVEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON THE UN COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA TO

TRAVEL TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA TO MAKE ON-SITE INSPECTION OF POLITICAL SITUATION THERE.

3. HE POINTED OUT THAT OAU PROPOSAL HAD ADVANTAGE FOR VORSTER OF PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO BROADEN SAG CONTACTS WITH TOTAL OF ELEVEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES; SEVEN OF COUNCIL PLUS CAMEROON REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI AND THREE NOT ON COUNCIL (TANZANIA, ZAIRE AND FRELIMO) WITH WHOM SAG ALREADY DEALING THROUGH ZAMBIA.

4. CHONA THOUGHT VORSTER MIGHT RESIST REFERENCE TO SWAPO AS "ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIAN PEOPLE." HE FELT THAT IF VORSTER COULD CONCEDE ON THREE ESSENTIALS (ABOVE) EVEN THOUGH NOT ACCEPTING SWAPO, HIS NEGOTIATING SENSE SHOULD TELL HIM THERE MIGHT BE SOME GIVE ON THIS LAST POINT. (PRESIDENT OF UN COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA AMBASSADOR RUPIAH BANDA, MADE SAME POINT TO AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI.)

5. CHONA THEN SUGGESTED THAT OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, SUCH AS SWANU AND OTHERS IN NEW NAMIBIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION, COULD BE REPRESENTED AS WELL. MOREOVER, THERE COULD BE "CHANGES OF HEART" AMONG SOME OF THE BANTUSTAN PUPPET LEADERS. WHAT ZAMBIA AND OTHER FRONT LINERS WANT TO AVOID IS REPEAT OF RHODESIA AND ANGOLA SITUATIONS WHERE LIBERATION GROUPS CONTESTING FOR PREEMINENCE AND COMPLICATING POLITICAL SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

6. CHONA SUGGESTED THAT US COULD BE HELPFUL BY CAUTIONING VORSTER AGAINST OVERREACTING OR BEING THROWN OFF BY STRONG LANGUAGE OF OAU RESOLUTION WHICH AFTERALL IS NOTHING BUT A COMPROMISE BETWEEN RADICAL AND MODERATE AFRICANS, AND SHOULD NOT CLOUD ESSENTIALS OF RESOLUTION.

7. COMMENT: FOLLOWING CHONA'S DEBRIEFING ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH FOURIE, AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI SAID USG CONCERNED ABOUT SAG COMPLIANCE WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON NAMIBIA BY MAY 30 DEADLINE AND WAS STUDYING MATTER CLOSELY. URGED CHONA DISCUSS NAMIBIA WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS AT MEETING TENTATIVELY SET UP FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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APRIL 16 (AF/FOLEY TELECON). CHONA WELCOMED SUGGESTION. HE URGED THAT NO REPEAT NO REFERENCE BE MADE TO HIS LONDON MEETING WITH FOURIE AS HE WAS WITHOUT PRIOR STATE HOUSE CLEARANCE TO DISCUSS IT WITH OUTSIDERS.

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